

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR EUR/RPM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO EFIN AORG
SUBJ: CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: USNATO 1149

SUMMARY: CBC MEETING SCHEDULED MARCH 28. GUIDANCE
REQUESTED BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 28. END SUMMARY.

1. CBC WILL CONTINUE ITS DISCUSSION OF DOCUMENT BC-D(77)3
(PARAGRAPH 1.B REFTEL) AT MARCH 28 MEETING.

A. PEDESTAL-TYPE ASHTRAYS. DISAPPROVED DURING MARCH
7 MEETING. (REFTEL B(2)).

B. GARAGE FOR CARS OF INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF. JUSTIFICA-
TION INSUFFICIENT TO WARRANT CONSTRUCTION OF CARPORT FOR THREE
PASSENGER VEHICLES, TWO CARS FOR GENERAL USE AND MOTORBIKES OF
SOME NATO EMPLOYEES. RECOMMEND DISAPPROVAL. (REFTEL B(3) (B)).

C. RESTAURANT AREA. CONCUR WITH PROPOSALS. (REFTEL B(3) (C)).

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D. ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENTS (REFTEL B(4)).

(1) REINFORCEMENT OF WALLS IN PRESENTATION ROOM IN BUILDING M.
CONCUR WITH PROPOSAL.

(2) INSTALLATION OF TWO MOBILE TRANSLATORS" BOOTHS IN MAIN
CONFERENCE ROOM. PRESENT FACILITIES PROVIDE ONLY FRENCH AND
ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS. MINISTERS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE EITHER LANGUAGE
NOW HAVE TRANSLATORS SITTING EITHER BESIDE OR BEHIND THEM
PROVIDING SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS. ADDITIONAL BOOTHS WOULD PERMIT

TWO FURTHER LANGUAGES IN CONFERENCES AND WOULD PERMIT MINISTERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS TO RECEIVE IMMEDIATE TRANSLATION THROUGH EARPHONES, WHILE TRANSLATOR WOULD BENEFIT BEING AWAY FROM CONFUSION OF CONFERENCE ROOM. IN ADDITION, THE MOBILE BOOTHS COULD BE USED IN OTHER CONFERENCE ROOMS THAT ARE NOT EQUIPPED WITH TRANSLATION BOOTHS. HOWEVER, AS THE ONLY OFFICIAL LANGUAGES FOR NATO ARE ENGLISH/FRENCH AND THESE ARE ROUTINELY ACCOMMODATED IN THIS HQ THIS EXPENDITURE DOES NOT APPEAR ESSENTIAL AND GIVES FUEL TO OLD ARGUMENT FAVORING EXPANSION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES TO AT LEAST GERMAN. RECOMMEND DISAPPROVAL.

(3) SOUND ENGINEERS' CONTROL ROOM FOR ALL CONFERENCE ROOMS IN BUILDING L. AUTOMATIC VOICE AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM REQUIRES ENGINEER TO CONDUCT VISUAL EQUIPMENT INSPECTION EVERY 20 MINUTES. NEW CONTROL ROOM WOULD PROVIDE CENTRAL PANEL FOR ALL ROOMS EQUIPPED WITH AUTOMATIC VOICE AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM AND PERMIT PROMPT IDENTIFICATION OF AREA SHOULD A BREAKDOWN OCCUR. INSTALLATION OF CONTROL PANEL WOULD THEN PERMIT DEPLOYMENT OF SOME EMPLOYEES TO SECTIONS WHERE WORK PRESENTLY INCREASING, SUCH AS TELEPHONE UNIT, WHERE PROBLEMS BEING EXPERIENCED WITH SPECIAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM, OR TO AUDIOVISUAL SECTION. CONCUR WITH PROPOSAL WHILE RECOGNIZING PERIPHERAL NATURE OF EXPENDITURE.

(4) STAFF CENTER. DURING ON-SITE INSPECTION IT WAS LEARNED THAT OF THE BF 3,750,000 SHOWN FOR ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENTS, BF 1,550,000 WAS FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE KITCHEN, PROVISION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES' ROOM OFF THE KITCHEN (TO CONFORM TO BELGIAN LAW) AND PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT. NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED HAS TRIPLED TO AVERAGE ABOUT 150 DAILY.

DOCUMENTS REVEAL THAT: (A) US REP UNABLE TO LIFT RESERVATION, SINCE "CONGRESS HAD DECLINED TO GRANT CREDITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STAFF CENTER" (CF(70)59);

(B) NO MONEY WAS BEING REQUESTED FROM ANY MEMBER COUNTRY TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF STAFF CENTER, BUT NATO AUTHORITIES WOULD USE MONEY FROM MISCELLANEOUS INCOME. "AMERICAN SHARE OF RECEIPTS... WOULD BE REPAYED TO US AS USUAL" AND SHARE OF OTHERS WOULD BE RETAINED (LETTER TO USDEPPERMREP ANNEXED TO A(71)139).

THE UNITED STATES DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STAFF CENTER; YET, THE 310 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AT NATO AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE THE FACILITIES.

WE ARE UNSURE WHETHER CONGRESS WOULD OPPOSE THE USE OF MONEY AVAILABLE IN THE RELOCATION/CONVERSION BUDGET (OF WHICH SOME BF 7,300,000 IS FROM UNDISTRIBUTED RECEIPTS OR INTEREST) FOR THE ALTERATIONS PROPOSED FOR THE STAFF CENTER. THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED IN THIS MATTER.

2. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND CONCURRENCE OF PARAGRAPHS 1-C,
1-D(1) AND (3) AND DISAPPROVAL OF 1-B AND 1-D(2).

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 AND GUIDANCE PER PARAGRAPH 1-D(4)
REQUESTED PRIOR TO OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 28.
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